

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 ITF-05 SR-02

ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 FDRE-00 SS-15 H-02 NSC-05 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 INSE-00 AID-05

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R 151546Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9419

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SREF, FR, US, UNHCR

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS AND FORMER
GOVT. OFFICIALS

REF: (A) STATE 105816 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 104017;
(C) NEW DELHI 6399 (NOTAL); (D) SINGAPORE 2003 (NOTAL);
(E) ABIDJAN 3968 (NOTAL); (F) TEHRAN 4261 (NOTAL)

1. THE EMBASSY HAS THUS FAR RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 41
FORMAL REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM IN U.S. FROM VIETNAMESE
AND CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS AND OTHER FORMER HIGH-RANKING
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS THE TOTAL
OF HEADS OF FAMILY AND DEPENDENTS. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO
FORMER GVN AND GKR CHIEFS OF MISSIONS IN FRANCE THAT
THEIR PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS REFRAIN FROM APPLYING AT
THIS TIME SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE INSTRUCTIONS. SOME FORM-
ER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE SUBMITTED REQUESTS BY LET-
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TERS DIRECTLY TO HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT. SOME

OF THESE PERSONS WILL PROBABLY MAKE A FORMAL APPLICATION GREATLY INCREASING THE NUMBER ON OUR ROLLS.

2. IN ADDITION, REFTELS C, D, E, AND F INDICATE THAT SEVERAL MORE EX-DIPLOMATS WILL SHORTLY ARRIVE IN PARIS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING ASYLUM TO THE U.S. MOREOVER, THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFFS OF SEVERAL EX-GVN EMBASSIES BOTH IN EASTERN EUROPE AND IN AFRICA HAVE BEGUN TO ARRIVE IN PARIS AND HOPE TO SEEK U.S. ASYLUM.

3. EMBASSY HAS REPLIED TO SUCH REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTELS (AJ AND (B)), INDICATING THAT ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE SOUGHT FROM FRENCH GOVT.; UNHCR, OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. EACH APPLICANT IS PROVIDED WITH NAMES AND PARIS/GENEVA ADDRESSES OF ORGANIZATIONS. TO DATE, NO APPLICANT HAS RECEIVED A REPLY FROM ANY ORGANIZATION. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE GOF IS ADOPTING A "LIBERAL POLICY" IN APPLYING STATED CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF REFUGEES TO OBTAIN RESIDENCE IN FRANCE. GOF IS INSISTING, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE WHO "SPONSOR" REFUGEES IN FRANCE BE FINANCIALLY ABLE ASSUME BURDEN. IN VIEW OF THIS ATTITUDE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GOF WILL EXERT MUCH PRESSURE ON OFFICE OF UNHCR IN CASES OF EX-DIPLOMATS WITHOUT AN ASSURANCE THAT UNHCR WILLING TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR SETTLEMENT IN FRANCE.

4. FEW GOVT. OFFICIALS HAVE, TO DATE, INDICATED THAT THEY QUALIFY FOR REGULAR IMMIGRATION STATUS. NONE OF THOSE WHO HAVE VISITED THE EMBASSY WISH TO REMAIN IN FRANCE; THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO SEEK ASYLUM IN THE U.S.

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R 151546Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9420
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 12324

5. ALTHOUGH IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANYONE WILL FACE FORCIBLE RETURN TO EITHER CAMBODIA OR VIETNAM, A FEW HAVE CLAIMED THERE IS A CERTAIN RISK TO BEING IN FRANCE DUE MAINLY TO THEIR FORMER POSITIONS OR POLITICAL PERSUASIONS IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.

6. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN REACHING A SOLUTION TO THE WORLDWIDE PROBLEM OF SETTLEMENT OF DIPLOMATS AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF NUMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY APPLIED IN PARIS, IN ADDITION TO THE NUMEROUS EX-DIPLOMATS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE PARIS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IN HANDLING SUCH REQUESTS. WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, IT BE USEFUL TO DEPARTMENT IF EMBASSY CABLED DATA ON EACH FAMILY REQUEST FOR ASYLUM PRIOR TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE RECEIPT OF REPLIES FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER FOR DEPARTMENT TO ASSESS OVERALL MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM? IN ADDITION, DOES THE DEPARTMENT ENVISION ANY RIDER TO CURRENT REFUGEE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR SOME RELAXED CRITERIA FOR REFUGEES NOT IN U.S. "PHYSICAL CUSTODY" IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE HOST GOVERNMENT (FRANCE) ARE NOT PREPARED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL/RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR CAMBODIAN/VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS IN THIS COUNTRY?
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